

Open Letter to Church Board

Date: September 10, 2013

To: Church Board:
Sara Simons, Chairman
Katie Spencer, V. Chair
Don Whitley, Secretary
Dorene Drake, Treasurer
Barb Scantlin, Elder Chair
Pat Whitley, Deacons
Oaks Christian Church
1216 Bethlehem St
Houston, Texas 77018-1918

From: Charlie Dean, church member

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I suppose by now you have read my letter to you dated September 5, 2013. Please add the following five points to the agenda of the next business meeting. Also, please add this communication to your corporate documents.

To my knowledge, there is no standing operating procedure (SOP) for dealing with the five matters below. At the upcoming business meeting I would like to ask some of you to accept one of the points as a project and submit a written report at the following business meeting.

1. Monthly business meeting of 9/8/2013

As far as I know the business meeting on Sunday, September 8, 2013 was not announced in advance of that Sunday. It was not mentioned in the newsletter or weekly email. It was not mentioned in the bulletin or in the church service. An **inline link** to in the weekly email the following text would have been appropriate:

We will have a business meeting after the service on Sunday, September 8, 2013. Business meetings are open to all members (except for closed sessions) and any OCC member can always request council minutes and other material made part of the meeting. We are working on a digital library. OCC is committed to open, honest communications, and to empowering our members.

It would be nice if members would be told that the meeting is open to all. I understand the business meeting was cancelled at the last minute.

2. Rummage sale 9/6/2013 – 9/7/2013

- We had poor turnout. If our advertisements were read, they had little effect. We have no idea which advertisements prompted our visitors to attend. If we knew this, we could perhaps do better next time around.
- We failed to invite the Hispanic church (Iglesia Renovada Sion) that meets in our building. This would have made a difference.
- The flags outside failed to announce the event and hours. My hunch is that many drivers saw our flags and did not have a clue what the message was.
- We needed a schedule, workflow, list of chores, etc.
- There seems to be no mechanism in place to address this. To my knowledge, there is no SOP (standard operating procedure) for rummage sales or similar events.

3. Lack of a plan

The Board appears to be devoid of any plan that might amount to a solution to the membership problem. While the recent expenditures will enhance the real estate, this is not a solution. Hope, rhetoric, spending, and passing the hat are not plans.

4. Corporate documents

Church records are in a dismal mess. I have offered to try to organize them and create a digital library so that they can be shared with everyone. Your delay is intentional.

5. Communicating with church leaders

There seems to be no mechanism in place whereby a member can communicate with leaders, in a way that leads to any follow-through or completion. Any proposed plan, project, scheme, or the like should not be simply dismissed. There ought to be a mechanism in place whereby a member, after reaching a point of diminishing returns on his attempts to communicate and participate, could invoke an investigative process. Or better yet, an opportunity to bring the matter before the congregation.